

Case 3224

***Mycetoporus mulsanti* Ganglbauer, 1895 (Insecta, Coleoptera):
proposed conservation of the specific name**

Michael Schülke

Rue Ambroise Paré 11, D-13405 Berlin, Germany

(e-mail: mschuelke.berlin@t-online.de)

Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, the specific name *Mycetoporus mulsanti* Ganglbauer, 1895 for a widespread mountain species of Palaearctic rove beetle (family STAPHYLINIDAE) of ecological and conservation interest. The name is threatened by the recent resurrection of a largely unused senior synonym, *Mycetoporus tenuis* Mulsant & Rey, 1853.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; STAPHYLINIDAE; *Mycetoporus*; *Mycetoporus mulsanti*; *Mycetoporus tenuis*; rove beetles; Palaearctic; mountain forests; alpine vegetation zone.

1. The name *Mycetoporus mulsanti* was given to a widespread species of Palaearctic rove beetle (family STAPHYLINIDAE) by Ganglbauer (1895, p. 375). This species is of ecological and conservation interest, and lives in mountain forests and in the alpine vegetation zone. This name is a junior objective synonym of *Mycetoporus tenuis* Mulsant & Rey, 1853 (p. 54). Ganglbauer proposed the name *M. mulsanti* to replace *M. tenuis* Mulsant & Rey assuming that the latter name was a junior secondary homonym of *Mycetoporus tenuis* Stephens, 1832 (p. 169), a species that had originally been included in the genus *Ischnosoma* Stephens, 1829. The name *M. mulsanti* was subsequently used by almost all authors.

2. Herman (2001a, p. 35; 2001b, p. 800) was of the opinion that the name *Ischnosoma tenuis* Stephens, 1832 was unavailable. Herman's reasoning was that Stephens (1832, p. 169) did not in fact describe this species. Stephens thought wrongly that he had a specimen of *Staphylinus tenuis* Fabricius, 1793 in front of him and consequently misidentified his material. *S. tenuis* Fabricius is now in the genus *Rabigus* Mulsant & Rey, 1876, and according to Herman (2000b, p. 800) the species, to which Stephens mistakenly attributed this name, is currently known as *Ischnosoma splendidum* (Gravenhorst, 1806). Herman (2001a, p. 35), therefore, considered *M. mulsanti* Ganglbauer to be an unnecessary replacement name, and consequently resurrected *M. tenuis* Mulsant & Rey as the valid name for the species.

3. However, *Mycetoporus mulsanti* Ganglbauer has been cited as the valid name for this species of rove beetle in numerous publications on taxonomy, zoogeography, ecology and beetle conservation. Use of the older synonym *M. tenuis* Mulsant & Rey would create significant instability in the European scientific literature. In a recent catalogue of the STAPHYLINIDAE, Herman (2001b, p. 801) presented only 12 bibliographic references by 11 different authors who used *M. mulsanti* as a valid name during the last 50 years. However, I have presented to the Commission Secretariat a list of 68 additional references by 59 authors citing *M. mulsanti* Ganglbauer as valid

in the last 50 years (e.g. Comellini, 1974; Biström, 1985; Böhme, 1996). This list, which is compiled from my own database, is far from complete. Many additional references could be found in a more thorough search, especially in ecological and environmental studies.

4. Prior to its resurrection by Herman (2000a), the name *M. tenuis* Mulsant & Rey was used at least three times in the 20th century by Holdhaus & Prossen (1900, p. 140), Bernhauer (1902, p. 698) and Johansen (1914, p. 336). Therefore, the condition of Article 23.9.1.1 of the Code (that the senior synonym has not been used as a valid name since 1899) is not met and an application to the Commission is required.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the name *tenuis* Mulsant & Rey, 1853, as published in the binomen *Mycetoporus tenuis*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *mulsanti* Ganglbauer, 1895, as published in the binomen *Mycetoporus mulsanti*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *tenuis* Mulsant & Rey, 1853, as published in the binomen *Mycetoporus tenuis* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).